Interview with Thomas Mullin, Assistant Principal at John B. Stetson Charter School

I interviewed my vice principal at my school regarding the technology we have and its use for educational purposes in the classroom and at home. I was interested in finding out what the administration uses daily during the school year. This was a phone interview that consisted of the following questions.

Q: Do you feel that technology is a major subject in school today?

A: Absolutely, our students need to know about technology trends and how they can use them to become affective citizens.

Q: Do you feel that online gaming can increase benchmark and PSSA scores better than class time alone?

A: Not necessarily, however, the combination of online learning and traditional learning will reach a broader audience that should produce higher scores.

Q: Our Mac lab is new, fast, and up to date. Do you have any plans to update the laptop carts in the school any time soon?

A: Yes, they are 6 years old. However, they still work and PSD has allowed us to keep them for another year or more. Until they want them back, we will use them as an added resource. If you want new ones, write it up and I will pass it on to finance.

Q: Do you see our students having laptops that they can use in school and take home for homework use?

A: Not right now. As our student population is in poverty, the amount of homes without Internet access would not be cost affective at this time. Perhaps if Philadelphia Internet was still around that might be different.

Q: What type of technology budget do we have for next year?

A: Well, you know that we are in a spending freeze and all of our salaries were also frozen. We can’t spend school funds this year but you can use Arts Rising money for software and hardware purchases under $2500.00 for the year.

Q: How and what do you use for technology as a vice principal?

A: Administration uses the Power School system for attendance, grading, and student, parent information. I am on that all day as well as Excell for logistics and the Internet for constant emailing.